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SHERIFF OF WILSON COUNTY
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April 10, 2015

Received & Inspected

APR 21 2015

FCC Mail Room

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Re: **Ex Parte Communication**
WC Docket No. 12-375; Inmate Calling Services

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Wilson County Sheriff's Office, Tennessee, hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The Wilson County Sheriff's Office, Tennessee, supports the comments and reply comments filed by the National Sheriffs' Association in this proceeding. The purpose of this filing is to submit additional information specific to this office in support of NSA's position that Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs if ICS services are to continue to be widely available in jails.

Inmate calling is a discretionary service in our local correction facility of 462 beds and it is allowed for the benefit of inmates and their families. If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of ICS service, then we can and we may be forced to significantly limit or eliminate altogether access to inmate phones in our jail. Currently, we have the incentive to allow significant access to ICS service and inmates are able to make calls sixteen (16) per day. Denying payments to jails or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will have the effect of reducing the incentive and ability to continue to allow ICS in this manner.

Our budget has not kept pace with our cost to operate in recent years and we anticipate further limitations placed on additional funding in our budget. In addition to security and administrative functions that must be maintained, there are programs for inmates that we are required to maintain by law. If the cost of allowing ICS must compete with all other budget needs, it may not be funded. However, if the cost of allowing ICS has its own source of funding, it is less likely to be impacted by the budget process.

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Accordingly, Sheriffs incur significant costs in allowing ICS in jails and Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs to be able to continue to allow ICS and to encourage the deployment of ICS in jails. A few examples of these costs are: employee salaries for information technology staff to help train employees and maintain the systems, investigators to detect and investigate continued criminal enterprises by inmates while incarcerated, and additional correctional staff to maintain the safety, security, and appropriate staffing levels in the facility if the ICS was eliminated, since communications with family and friends offer a sense of calm to the inmates, as well as, loved ones while incarcerated.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Bryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "B".

Sheriff Robert Bryan
Wilson County Sheriff's Office
105 East High Street
Lebanon, TN 37087
615-444-1412